

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended

31st December 1946.



To the Chairman and Members of the
CONISBROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1946.

The following were the main features of interest during the year.

NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

This department is now separated from the Surveyor's Department, which due to the large increase in work in both these departments, should prove beneficial to the district by this separation and I am of the opinion the Council should be complimented upon its foresight in taking this step.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Compared with the averages for the previous years of this district, it is found that the increases in the birthrate during last year has practically been maintained and that the death rate from all causes has decreased considerably.

The infantile mortality rate was decreased by a half of the figure for last year and now compares favourably with that for England and Wales.

The maternal mortality rate was relatively low there being only one case in the district.

The following services are provided under the West Riding County Council Scheme.

Clinics, Nursing Services, Dental Services, Ultra Violet Light, Home Helps, and Laboratory Service.

CLINICS.

Anti Natal and School Clinics. These are held at the Church Road, Donaby Main and the Welfare Centre, Conisbrough. The latter being the weekly clinic opened on Monday afternoon in connection with Anti Natal and Infantile care.

The Church Road, Donaby Main Clinic is opened all the week, provision being made here for School Dental Services and Ultra Violet Light treatment.

The dental service also includes treatment of a like nature for expectant mothers.

An Ear, Nose and Throat clinic is provided for the treatment of children at Mexborough.

NURSING SERVICES.

Unfortunately under the present conditions there is no private Nursing Association in the district, previously the district had two District Nurses available under a private Nursing Association at Donaby Main.

I am of the opinion that at least one District Nurse should be available for work within the district, and I am doubtful if one nurse would be able to fulfil all the calls made in connection with this most desirable facility for the area.

MIDWIVES.

There are four midwives appointed to this district, two serve Conisbrough and two Donaby Main. Unfortunately three of these midwives are living in Conisbrough and the N.C.B. have been approached to allow one of their houses to be allocated for the purpose of providing a domicile for the second nurse serving Donaby.

HOME HELPS.

This scheme has occupied much attention of the Council as it was considered most desirable, unfortunately however, there has not been any persons who are interested in placing their names upon the register to be called upon to undertake this work, and the scheme therefore is not yet able to operate.

LABORATORY SERVICE.

Treatment of Tuberculosis. Specimens and X Ray photographs in the matter in the diagnosis of this scheme are provided for at Mexboro.

Specimens in connection with the diagnosis of other diseases are sent to Wakefield and a portion to Sheffield Royal Infirmary through the kindness of the Board.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A motor ambulance is provided by the West Riding County Council for the removal of accidents and other cases to Hospital.

Area of the District.

1593 ACRES.

POPULATION ETC.

Census Population 1921.	15,860.
Census Population 1931.	18,174.
Registrar General's estimated residential population mid-year	16,080.
do do 1945.	15,520.
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1946.	3,972.
Rateable Value mid-year.	£56,664.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£210.

STATISTICS:

BIRTHS. The number of births registered during the year were:-

	Male	Female	Total.
Legitimate	203	189	392
Illegitimate.	4	8	12
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population			24.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales			19.1
Birth Rate per 1,000 for this district in 1945			21.1

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total.
Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate.	-	1	1

The total of 9 still births gives a rate of 0.56 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales was 0.53 per 1000.

The Birth Rates for the four quarters of the year (not including transerable births) were:-

Quarter ended 31st March.	19.2
30th June.	15.7
30th September.	19.2
31st December.	19.6

DEATHS.

	Male	Female	Total.
From all causes.	86	65	151

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	9.3
Death Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales	11.5
Death Rate per 1,000 for this district in 1945	12.5

The death rates for the four quarters of the year (not including transferable deaths) were:-

Quarter ended 31st March.	10.6
30th June.	8.5
30th September.	4.7
31st December.	8.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 15 male and 2 female deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	42.0
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births for England and Wales.	43.0
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births for this district in 1945	82.6
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births.	--

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 42.0 compares favourably with that for England and Wales, and is much lower than the rate for this district in 1945.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the four quarters of the year were:-

Quarter ended 31st March.	54.0
30th June.	16.4
30th September.	54.8
31st December.	39.4

The number of women dying in consequence of child birth were:-

from sepsis 1 from other causes Nil.

Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births 2.42.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes	86	65
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid fevers.	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	1
3. Scarlet Fever.	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.	-	-
5. Diphtheria.	1	-
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	8	5
7. Other Tuberculosis diseases.	-	-
8. Syphilitic diseases.	-	-
9. Influenza.	1	1
10. Measles.	-	-
11. Acute Polio-encephalitis	-	-
12. Acute Infantile encephalitis.	-	-
13. Cancer of B.cav. Oesoph.(M) & Uterus (F)	1	4
14. Cancer of Stomach.	2	2
15. Cancer of Breast.	-	3
16. Cancer of all other sites.	4	8
17. Diabetes.	-	1
18. Intra-cran:vasc:Lesions.	5	4
19. Heart Diseases.	26	19
20. Other circulatory diseases.	-	-
21. Bronchitis.	5	4
22. Pneumonia.	14	2
23. Other respiratory diseases.	2	-
24. Ulcer of Stomach.	-	1
25. Diarrhoea. (under 2 years)	-	-
26. Appendicitis.	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases.	1	2
28. Acute & chronic nephritis.	4	2
29. Puerperal sepsis.	-	1
30. Other puerperal causes.	-	-
31. Congenital debility & premature birth.	2	-
32. Con:mal:birth inj. Infant Dis.	3	2
33. Suicide.	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents.	2	-
35. Violent Causes.	3	-
36. All other causes.	2	3

HOSPITALS.

The Council are a constituent authority of the Doncaster and Mexboro Joint Hospital Board. The hospital is situate at Conisbrough and receives patients for the following diseases:-

Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Enteric and Para-typhoid Fever. The Board have also a Small Pox Hospital.

A motor ambulance is provided by the Joint Hospital Board, for the purposes of the removal to Hospital, cases suffering from Infectious Diseases. The Joint Hospital Board also provide facilities for the disinfection of clothing and bedding at a small charge to the Authority.

MORTUARY.

A Mortuary is provided at the Council Offices by the Local Authority.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

By the Conisbrough (Constitution of Urban District and Division into Wards) Order 1920, the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890, and the Baths and Washhouses Acts 1864 to 1869 were declared to be in force in the Urban District.

Part III of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890 has been adopted and came into force on the 1st May, 1922.

Part II, IV and X of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1907 have been adopted and came into force on the 1st May, 1922.

Part II of the Public Health Act, 1925, has been adopted.

Certain sections of the above have been repealed by the Public Health Act 1936.

By order of the Minister of Health dated 8th September, 1924, Byelaws with respect to New Streets came into operation in the Urban District. By Order of the Minister of Health dated 30th December, 1939, new Building Byelaws came into operation.

By Order of the Minister of Health dated 27th June, 1930, Byelaws with respect to Recreation Grounds became operative.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Dr. D.T.Clark. M.B. C.I.B. Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. R.E.Ingleby. A.R.S.I. M.S.I.A. R.P.C. Sanitary Inspector.

Mr A.Jones. Clerk to the Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sections of the Report,

HOUSING; and INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD;

and PUBLIC CLEANSING

Have been prepared by

Mr. R.E.Ingleby, A.R.S.I. M.S.I.A. R.P.C.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The supplies to this district are obtained from boreholes, the water being pumped by the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board and the National Coal Board, the supplies being purchased from these authorities.

A portion of this water is delivered into a service reservoir situate at Conanby, but the majority of the water is supplied to this district directly out of the service mains as they enter the district, and thus, a constant supply is obtained within the area.

PURIFICATION.

A portion of the supply purchased from the N.C.B. is treated for hardness, followed by a filtration process, but no further treatment is undertaken by the authority, whilst the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board supply receives no treatment at all.

ANALYSIS.

24 samples of water were submitted for Bacteriol analysis by Conisbrough Urban District Council during the year, and reports of 11 samples which the N.C.B. submitted for analysis were forwarded to the offices.

3 of these samples contained coliform bacilli in a 100cc, one sample was obtained from the outlet of the Conisbrough reservoir, the second from the outlet of the Denaby and the 3rd from the Denaby Pit Yard.

These samples show that for a period the district was not obtaining water of the highest quality, fortunately this trouble was only for a short period.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

Two reports of this type of analysis are available and refer only to the hardness of the water.

It appears that a full report of the chemical analysis of the water would be desirable in order to obtain fuller information, when samples are sent for test.

SUPPLY.

The approx. number of dwelling houses supplied within the district is 4,000.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Extensions have been made to the sewer for the sewerage to the now housing sites at Conanby for 96 permanent houses.

Certain repairs and alterations to the existing drainage has occurred during the year, and this work is considered of extreme importance and occupies a considerable portion of time to ensure that it will give its maximum satisfactory service when constructed, with the minimum of inconvenience should it require cleansing or repair at a later date.

It is only by this method that the basic principles of good drainage becomes the practice in the district, and the fallacy of the "Out of sight out of mind" method with its resultant inconvenience of blockages, which cannot be cleared without pulling the yard up and the unhealthy stench caused when such repairs have to be undertaken, can be in time abolished.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are at present within the district the following forms of sanitary conveniences.

Pail Closets.	2
Privy Middens.	18
Podestal Water Closets.	3886
Waste Water Closets.	164
Trough Closets.	28

It is intended that now hostilities have ceased, a stronger policy should be adopted and a number of the more undesirable types of the sanitary conveniences should be converted into water closets each year.

Unfortunately, some of the privy middens are situated on outlying farm lands, which cannot be brought into the sewer, whilst others are situated below sewer level, resulting in special means having to be adopted which prove more expensive.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

It has not been found necessary to undertake any action in connection with pollution with the rivers or streams within the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It has not been found necessary to take any action on this matter within the district during the year.

SHOPS.

34 visits were made under the Shops Act, 1934, these constituted routine inspections and the premises were found to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATH.

There is one swimming bath under the control of the local authority within the district which at present is not used for this purpose, it is hoped that the necessary plant may be available in the near future so that this amenity will be again restored to the residents of the district at a future date.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No. of council houses found to be infested.	1
No. of other houses found to be infested.	2
No. disinfested by the council.	2
No. disinfested by property owner.	1

The disinfection of council's property is carried out by the council's workmen, an approved spray disinfection agent being used for this purpose, household linen etc, being disinfested by a steam process.

The extermination of this pest cannot be too rigorously prosecuted, and council's intention that all future cases of infestation of council's property is due to tenant's neglect, and that the tenant should pay for disinfection service should tend to create a more cleanly habit amongst them with a resultant saving of revenue from treatment costs.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

No. of houses visited (Housing Consolidated Amended Regulation 1932) 0

No. of inspections of Schools.	0
do Factories.	3
do Bakehouses.	2
do Dairies and Cow Sheds.	34
do Refuse Tip	12
Complaints received and investigated.	333
No. of re-inspections made.	90
Visits made to houses (re. cases of infectious diseases)	81
No. of houses disinfested.	81
No. of drains tested.	33
Total number of defects discovered	122
Informal notices served.	50
Statutory Notices served.	28
No. of nuisances abated.	84

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

Some of these have been dealt with in detail in other portions of this report briefly these are as follows:-

- (1) The conversion of Privy Middens into Water Closets.
- (2) The conversion of Trough Closets into Water Closets.
- (3) The conversion of Waste Water Closets into Water Closets.
- (4) The paving of back streets and unmade roads.
- (5) The clearing of previously demolished housing sites.
- (6) The provision of a suitable site for the refuse tip.

LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED.

Defective drains.
Choked sewers.
Defective soil pipes and W.C.
Defective rainwater pipes, gutter and roofs.
Defective and wet plaster work.
Dirty and verminous houses and premises.
Dangerous Buildings.
Dirty and delapidated closets.
Accumulations of Refuse.
Defective and uneven gullies.
Insanitary sinks.
Defective fire ranges.
Defective slop water pipes.
Choked Waste Water Closets
Defective tipplers to Waste Water Closets.
Choked W.C.
Insanitary Yards.
Insufficient and unsatisfactory ventilation.
Burst water pipes.
Defective floors
Misc. Nuisances.
Rodent Infestations.

HOUSING.

57 houses were inspected during the year for defects (i.e. other than defects causing nuisance) all the houses inspected were not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

19 further inspections were carried out of the houses and 14 have been rendered fit.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE HOUSING CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

One of the inevitable concerns of any sanitarian is the conditions appertaining in the homes of the person living within the district under review, the higher the standard appertaining, the less likely is the health of the community to be affected by disease.

Due unfortunately, to a long period of hostilities during which progress in the form of new houses could not be attained, in fact in many areas of the country the reverse effect was found, and the inability to obtain both labour and materials for repairs to existing property during this period, has led to some form of rationing having to be instituted during the present time, with the result that progress is retarded in this matter.

This has resulted in a large proportion of the community requiring houses and they appear to fall into the following classes:-

- (a) Married persons who were eligible for houses on the outbreak of war and whose families have since increased.
- (b) People married during the war who have families and are living with their parents.
- (c) Newly married couples who have been married since the war.

To obtain a clearer view of the requirements of the district there must be added the following:-

Those persons who are living in property, which will, at a future date be included for demolition, also the segregation of those families where Tuberculosis is to be found in overcrowded circumstances, and the young family is exposed to this disease.

Another addition not to be overlooked is the request from the Government asking for provision to be made for the importation of labour into the district to work in the mines.

A programme to cover this sphere of work cannot be accomplished in a short period of time, in fact, one wonders if our allotted span of years will be sufficient to provide the conditions required to satisfy all these needs.

I very much doubt if this project can be accomplished in this area without some infringement of what is proposed to be at present the "Green Belt" or land to be used for agricultural purposes only.

However the schemes under way at present will be a contribution in the right direction, but a further increase on a considerable scale in the production of houses is one of the primary needs in this area.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

No. in district	6	Action with regard thereto	1.
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One new caravan was brought into the district during the year, the site upon which one was placed was found upon inspection to be unsatisfactory. Notice to remove the caravan was issued, and this has now left the district.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:-

A total of 45 Prefabricated houses were erected during the year and construction has commenced on 30 houses of the permanent type.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year inspections have been made of the Producers and Dairies used by wholesale and retailers in the district, the majority of milk sold in the district is obtained from suppliers outside the district, there being only one producer of milk within the district whose average sale is 8 gallons a day from 4 cows.

By far the largest portion of the milk consumed in the district received some form of heat treatment before sale, although we have only one such plant used for such purpose in the district.

Application has been received for a licence from one firm of retail purveyor's to sell within this district Pasturised Tuberculin Tested milk. This licence was granted.

There are 37 retailer purveyor's of milk within this district with a total daily supply of 968 gallons or 7744 pints.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The meat supply of this district is obtained from the Ministry of Food slaughter houses situate at Sheffield, an allocation being sent to each butcher, unfortunately the transportation of these allocations leave much to be desired.

The butchers shops have received periodical inspections and have been found to be clean and satisfactory. Unfortunately the part of the premises used for the manufacture of sausages etc, do not in the majority of cases, satisfy the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 with regard to this matter.

The butchers, when this is brought to their notice have endeavoured to have the necessary work executed.

The provisions of the War Emergency Regulations being still in operation has resulted in the privately owned slaughter houses being seldom used, except in the winter time, for the killing of pigs by individuals to be cured for bacon purposes.

Other food shops and premises used for the preparation of food are regularly inspected.

It has been found necessary to take action to make certain premises conform to the required standards.

SEIZURE OF UNSOUND FOOD.

No legal proceedings were necessary in respect of this matter during the year.

The quantities of food condemned during the year were as follows:-

- 3 Tins of Grade 2 Salmon.
- 4 Tins of Tomatoes.
- 4 Tins of Soup.
- 1 Tin of Carrots.
- 19 Tins of Beans.
- 4 Tins of Peas.
- 9 Tins of Fish.
- 24 Tins of Meat.
- 2 Tins of Damsons.
- 51 Tins of Milk.
- 78 lbs of Sweets.
- 76 lbs of Bacon.
- 4½ lbs of Cheese.
- 15 lbs of Butter.
- 27½ lbs of Tea.
- 168 lbs of Dripping.
- 10 cwts of Sugar.
- 28 lbs of Soya Bean Flour.
- 1 Jar of Piccalilli

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The whole of this very important Sanitary Service to the community has been transferred from the Surveyor's Dept to the Public Health Dept, this service comprises the collection of household refuse, trade refuse and the removal of the contents of the privy middens and the disposal of these noxious matters so as not to create a nuisance.

It is proposed to concentrate on a system of disposal known as "Control Tipping".

This service has suffered during hostilities as was only to be expected.

Increased demands are now being made on vehicles which are obsolete and in the near future, replacement will have to be undertaken if the service is to be maintained at an economical cost.

Further additional costs would have to be borne with the provision of protective clothing for the workmen engaged on this service.

TIPPING.

A new site is being sought for the purpose of tipping, and it was hoped that the National Coal Board would allow a central site at present unused by them, situate near Cadeby Colliery, to be used for this purpose, upon enquiry it was found that the Board have other future uses for this site thus resulting in a further search having to be made.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

7562 tons of refuse was removed from the district at a cost of £2917. 2. 7. this resulting in a cost per ton of $7/8\frac{1}{2}$.

The cost per house was $14/10\frac{1}{2}$.

39 loads of night soil was removed at a cost per house of £2. 0. 7 per year.

Salvage.

The refuse is sorted for salvage when tipped and approx. £162 was obtained from this source last year.

Infectious Diseases.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES. The number of cases notified together with the number of deaths and death rates with respect to the principal Zymotic diseases are as follows:-

	No. of cases notified.	No. of deaths.	Death rate per 1000 of the population.
Measles.	5	-	-
Whooping Cough.	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	46	-	-
Diphtheria	20	1	0.05
Diarroea & Enteritis	1	-	-

Infectious Diseases notified

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	46	45	-
Diphtheria.	20	20	1
Enteric Fever.	1	1	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	5	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	4	4	1
Pneumonia.	6	-	16
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neon.	2	-	-
Membranous Croup.	1	1	-

Notifiable Diseases in age periods.

	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 20 years.	20 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 years and over.	TOTAL.
Scarlet Fever.	-	2	4	4	6	16	8	2	4	-	-	-	46
Diphtheria.	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	1	-	-	20
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	5
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	6
Ophthalmia Neon.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Membranous Croup.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

Notifiable Diseases occurred in the Wards as follows:-

	North.	South.	East.	West.	Donaby.	Total.
Scarlet Fever.	3	20	11	7	5	46
Diphtheria.	1	12	3	1	3	20
Enteric Fever.	-	1	-	-	-	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	2	1	1	-	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	3	1	-	-	4
Pneumonia.	-	2	1	1	2	6
Erysipelas.	-	-	1	-	-	1
Opthalmia Neon.	2	-	-	-	-	2
Membranous Croup.	-	-	-	1	-	1
Measles.	-	-	1	1	3	5
Whooping Cough.	-	1	1	-	-	2

Tuberculosis cases notified and deaths in age periods.

Age.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respir- atory.		Non- Respir.		Respir- atory.		Non- Respir.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
20.	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
35.	4	7	1	-	5	3	-	-
45.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

In conclusion Gentlemen, I have to thank all the Officers of the Council for the co-operation in providing the information which I have required from the various departments, and in particular for the assistance the Sanitary Inspector has given me in compiling this report.

I am, Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

David.T.Clark

Medical Officer of Health.

